

# NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service**  
**Lincoln National Forest**  
1101 New York Avenue  
Alamogordo, N.M. 88310



---

Written by Joe Garcia

Contact: Joe Garcia (505) 434-7200

## HUNTING ON THE LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST

Alamogordo, NM (April 6, 2006) - The Lincoln National Forest implemented fire restrictions on January 20, 2006. The decision was based on weather outlooks calling for continued warm temperatures and dry conditions, which continue to date.

The Forest has received numerous telephone calls from hunters asking if turkey hunting season will proceed as planned beginning April 15. The Lincoln National Forest is committed to allowing hunters access to National Forest System lands during hunting season and continues to evaluate fire conditions on a week by week basis with local and state officials. Should a closure become necessary, it will be announced with as much lead time as possible.

The fire restrictions are as follows: building, maintaining or attending open campfires, charcoal grills and stove fires are prohibited on the Smokey Bear and Sacramento Ranger Districts without a permit.

The Smokey Bear Ranger District, Ruidoso, allows the use of campfire rings and charcoal grills at Three Rivers campground, and charcoal grills at Cedar Creek Picnic area.

The Guadalupe Ranger District, Carlsbad, allows the use of charcoal grills at Sitting Bull Falls.

The Sacramento Ranger District prohibits the use of any open flames to include campfires, charcoal grills or stove fires on any developed or undeveloped campground or picnic area.

Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed on all three Districts.

## **HUNTING 2-2-2**

Smoking is allowed within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site or while stopped in an area that is barren or cleared of all flammable material and at least three feet in diameter.

As always, fireworks are prohibited on all National Forest System lands.

The Lincoln National Forest along with the southwestern United States has been experiencing a very dry winter and spring, allowing the trees, plants and grasses to dry out. With the exception of last year's rain and snowfall in the southwest, the pattern has reverted back to drought conditions.

Historically, the Lincoln National Forest experiences large wildland wildfires during the spring months when strong winds move through the area created by Pacific storm systems. Since the Forest has not had any human-caused fires, Acting Forest Supervisor, Lou Woltering, is asking the public to be very vigilant during the spring months and any time while recreating on National Forest System lands.

Lincoln National Forest fire prevention teams are out in the communities and the Forest looking for fire restriction violators to ensure a wildland wildfire does not occur.

The current fire restrictions are necessary precautions to ensure our visitors are fire safe while enjoying their National Forest System lands.

For more information on the Lincoln National Forest, please review our website at:  
[www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln).

####